

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 16; rejected claims 3, 6-10, 18-20, and 22-27 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness; allowed claims 1, 2, 4, and 5; indicated that claims 16 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objection; indicated that claims 6, 18, 22-24, and 27 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; and indicated that claims 3, 7-10, 19, 20, 25 and 26 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and include the limitations of the base/intervening claims.

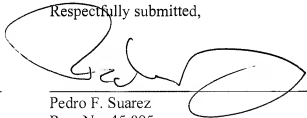
Applicants submit that the instant amendments to claims 3, 6, 7, 16, 18, 22-24, and 27 are made in response to the objection and rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. **Thus, by virtue of the instant amendments and the Examiner's indication of allowability, independent claims 1, 6, 16, 18, 22-24, and 27, as well as corresponding dependent claims 2-5, 7-10, 19, 20, 25, and 26, are in immediate condition for allowance.**

**CONCLUSION**

On the basis of the foregoing amendments, the pending claims are in condition for allowance. It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper.

No fee is believed to be due, however Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 39700-524N01US/NC14828US. If there are any questions regarding this reply, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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